

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 189535
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S:BUNKER;LINOWITZ
APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY
M - BEN READ
S/S-O;TGMARTIN
-----080244 102257Z /14
Z 102245Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 189535

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADORS JORDAN, BUNKER, LINOWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ
ANNOUNCING CONCEPTUAL AGREEMENT ON NEW PANAMA CANAL
TREATY

FOLLOWING REVISED STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY AMBASSADORS
BUNKER AND LINOWITZ HAS BEEN PHONED BY ACTING SEC
TO AMB JORDAN A 6:30 P.M. ES:

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATIFIED TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT
WE AND OUR PANAMANIAN COLLEAGUES HAVE TODAY REACHED
AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF A NEW
TREATY -- AND A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.
OUR LEGAL SPECIALISTS WILL CONTINUE WORKING TO EXPRESS
PROMPTLY THOSE ELEMENTS IN THE FORMAL TREATY.

THOUGH THIS IS BUT ONE STAGE IN THE COMPLETION OF OUR
SECRET

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HISTORIC TASK, IT IS A MAJOR STEP TOWARD OUR MUTUAL
GOAL. WE WILL BE FLYING BACK TO WASHINGTON TOMORROW
AND WILL GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE WHITE HOUSE TO REPORT
TO PRESIDENT CARTER. WE WILL DESCRIBE TO HIM THE WORK
THAT HAS BEEN DONE DURING THIS FINAL WEEK OF NEGOTIATIONS,
AND PRESENT FOR HIS REVIEW THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE.

IT HAS BEEN A LONG AND ARDUOUS TASK, AS YOU KNOW. FOR MORE THAN 13 YEARS, UNDER 4 PRESIDENTS, WE HAVE SOUGHT A NEW AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. NOW WE HAVE TAKEN A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD THAT LONG SOUGHT GOAL.

FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS TREATY WILL NOT ONLY PROTECT BUT STRENGTHEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS. IT WILL ALSO BE A STRONGLY POSITIVE ELEMENT IN OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LATIN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS AND PRESERVE OUR VITAL COMMON INTERESTS IN AN OPEN, SECURE AND EFFICIENT CANAL. END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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